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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **THE HEADS OF INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY SERVICES OF THE EAST AFRICA REGION CONCLUDE THEIR SECOND MEETING IN KAMPALA**

**Addis Ababa, 16 July 2015:** The Heads of Intelligence and Security Services (HISS) of the member countries of the East African Community (EAC) and of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) held their second meeting in Kampala, Uganda, from 14 to 15 July 2015. In addition to the HISS, the meeting was also attended by representatives of the EAC and IGAD, as well as of the African Center on the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA), the AU Mission for Mali and Sahel (MISAHEL), the AU-led Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA) and the Sahel Fusion and Liaison Unit (UFL). The opening ceremony featured statements by AU Peace and Security Commissioner Smail Chergui and the Prime Minister of Uganda, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, as well as by a representative of the IGAD Executive Secretary, Mahboub Maalim.

The meeting provided an opportunity to review the security situation in the East Africa region. In this respect, it was emphasized that terrorism, transnational organized crime and inter- and intra-state conflicts remain a major threat. It was further noted that the security challenges in the region were compounded by the continued ability of the Al-Shabaab terrorist group to wage attacks against the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the Somali security forces and civilians, as well as by the conflict in Yemen and the risk of the expansion to the region of the activities of the Islamic State. The meeting also highlighted the problems associated with illegal migration and human trafficking.

The meeting underlined the need for continued vigilance and determined efforts to deepen security cooperation in the region, on the basis of a unified vision of collective security, shared responsibility and transparency.

The meeting took stock of the implementation status of the Conclusions of the first meeting of the HISS, held in Djibouti, from 28 February to 1 March 2015, during which a number of practical steps were agreed upon, including the establishment of a secure communications system among the Intelligence and Security Services of the region, the enhancement of national capacities, the establishment of a Regional Fusion Center in Kampala, with a view to facilitating exchange of information, as well as of a Joint Operations Center (JOC) between IGAD and EAC Member States. The meeting welcomed the progress made in the follow-up to the Djibouti Conclusions, highlighting in particular the initiatives taken at national level and the capacity-building activities undertaken by CISSA and the ACSRT. The



meeting urged for renewed efforts to address the outstanding issues. Regarding in particular the Regional Fusion Center, it was agreed to dispatch a technical team to Algiers to learn from the experience of the Sahel UFL, with the view to expediting the operationalization of the proposed Kampala Fusion Center.

The meeting agreed on additional steps to enhance the effectiveness of the efforts aimed at addressing the security challenges confronting the region. These include the secondment by Member States of the Djibouti Process of intelligence officers and experts to enhance the AMISOM Analysis Cell, further support to the National Intelligence Services of Somalia and the harmonization of the national strategies to combat terrorism and violent extremism.

The meeting had an exchange of views on the arrest in London, United Kingdom, on 20 June 2015, of Lieutenant-General Emmanuel Karenzi Karake, the Head of the Rwanda National Intelligence and Security Service. The meeting expressed its full solidarity with and support to the people and Government of Rwanda, and called for the immediate and unconditional release of Lt. Gen. Karenzi Karake. It welcomed the communiqué on the matter adopted by the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) at its 519th meeting held in Addis Abéba, on 26 June 2015, as well as the follow-up steps taken by the Commission.

The Kampala meeting took place within the framework of the Djibouti Process on the Enhancement of Security Cooperation in East Africa, which was launched by the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the HISS, as a follow-up to the communiqué adopted by the 455<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AU PSC, held in Nairobi, on 2 September 2015. On that occasion, the PSC requested the Commission to support and facilitate regional cooperation initiatives and mechanisms to address specific transnational threats, building on the experiences of the RCI-LRA and the Nouakchott Process on the Enhancement of Security Cooperation and the Operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahelo-Saharan Region.

In a gesture of solidarity with Somalia, which continues to suffer from continued acts of terrorism, it was agreed to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the HISS of the East Africa Region in Mogadishu. The date will be agreed upon between the Government of Somalia and the AU Commission.

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Peace and Security

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